

Remarks

The Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments set forth above. The Applicant respectfully submits the amended claims are patentable over the cited prior art reference to Myszka which specifically discloses that the female part of the locking device has outer surface that is frictionally received by the inner surface of the hub. The pending claims have been amended to place claims 18, 19, 24 and 28 in independent form. Each of these independent claims focuses on a feature of the claimed storage container and locking device that is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited Myszka reference. The Applicant thus respectfully submits the amended claims are patentable over the cited reference.

Claim 18 has been amended to recite the structure of the quick connect device. Claim 18 requires the quick connect device to include a retention device and a cooperative retention device that are releasably joined together in a resilient snap fit. The cited Myszka device discloses and teaches that its snap fit connection between the female part and the base of the container is located outwardly of the hub where fingers 300 engage bottom wall 48. Myszka thus does not anticipate claim 18 or render the invention of claim 18 obvious. Nothing in Myszka suggests the use of a releasable snap fit within the hub itself to join the female part of the locking device to the hub.

Claim 24 also has been amended to recite the structure of the quick connect device that holds the female part to the hub. Claim 24 requires the retention device to include a radial protrusion and the cooperative retention device to be in the form of a recess that receives the radial protrusion in a resilient snap fit. The Myszka device discloses and teaches a snug or frictional fit between the female part and the inner surface of the hub. Again, nothing in Myszka suggests the use of a releasable snap fit within the hub itself to join the female part of the locking device to the hub. The invention of claim 24 is thus patentable over the cited Myszka reference.

Claim 19 recites the relationship of the female part to the base of the container. Claim 19 requires the entire female part to be disposed above the

outer surface of the base. This configuration prevents the locking device from protruding from the base and interfering with any printed matter that is typically wrapped around the outer surface of the base. The Myszka reference has a female part of a locking device that extends far below and overlaps portions of the outer surface of the bottom wall. The Applicant thus submits the invention of claim 19 is patentable over the cited Myszka reference.

Claim 28 recites the relationship between the retention device of the hub and the retention device of the female part of the locking device. This claim requires the retention device of the female part of the locking device to extend through the hub and be snap fit over the upper surface of the retention device of the hub. The cited Myszka hub does not have a retention device having an upper surface with a portion of the female part of the locking device extending through the hub and snap fit over this upper surface. The Applicant thus respectfully submits the invention of claim 28 and its dependent claims is patentable over the cited reference.

The Applicant also submits the dependent claims recite subject matter that is independently patentable. For example, claim 29 requires the inner surface of the male part of the locking device to directly engage the upper surface of the female part of the locking device. The cited Myszka reference does not disclose, teach or suggest this arrangement. Myszka's female part of the locking device does not extend through the hub and thus cannot directly engage the inner surface of the male part of the locking device. Claim 29 is thus patentable over the cited reference.

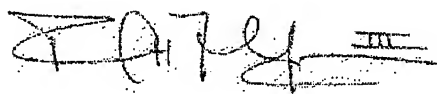
The Applicant further submits the invention of claim 31 is patentable over the cited Myszka reference. Claim 31 requires the retention device to be disposed between the pair of hub arms that hold the disk to the hub. The Myszka reference discloses a hub with a continuous hub wall 27 that does not provide space for retention devices that interact with the female part of the locking device.

The Applicant has amended the appearances of the word "disc" in the claims to match the use of the word "disk" in the specification.

The Applicant has added new claims and respectfully requests the new claims to be examined. The claim fees have been calculated on the transmittal sheet and paid on the enclosed credit card authorization form.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for the claims.

Please call the undersigned attorney if any issues remain after this amendment.

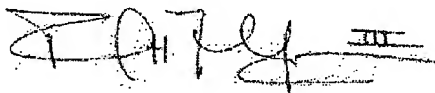


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I hereby certify that this correspondence (9 page Amendment B in application serial no. 10/549,954 filed 12/14/2006) is being transmitted by facsimile to 571-273-8300 on February 23, 2009.



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